Since 1925, The Denver Foundation has helped generous people like you to be catalysts for good by building charitable legacies.

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The Denver Foundation is a vibrant, beautiful, and exciting place to live. We are blessed with great art, beautiful parks, historic monuments, outstanding cultural institutions, and myriad high-quality nonprofit agencies that serve the needs of our diverse community. As a community foundation, The Denver Foundation has a unique window on the generous philanthropy that has helped to make our region what it is today – from the benefactors in our past, to the generous donors of today, to the thoughtful commitments of individuals for the future.

Creating a charitable legacy can be one of the most lasting and impactful acts you can do, and The Denver Foundation is proud to partner with hundreds of committed individuals who have taken that step. By working with The Denver Foundation, you can create a bequest for the future that supports the causes that you care about most, or you can leave a gift that allows the Foundation to meet the most critical needs in the community over time.

When you name The Denver Foundation or your charitable fund in your will, you know that your hard-earned assets will go on in perpetuity, allowing future generations to benefit from your success, passion, and generosity. You also become a part of the Community Legacy Society – the Foundation’s group that honors those who have taken the extraordinary step to include us in their estate plans.

Call the Philanthropic Services Group at 303.300.1790 to learn more about The Denver Foundation and its services, or visit www.denverfoundation.org.
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A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving account created by an individual or family and used to support charitable causes recommended by the donors and their successors. This option provides great flexibility for giving during your lifetime and allows you to leave the gift of philanthropy to future generations.

A designated fund provides support to your favorite charitable organizations in perpetuity, or over a set number of years. With an endowed designated fund, you can be confident that your gift will provide a lasting legacy to sustain your favorite nonprofits. Should an organization you’ve designated cease to exist, the Foundation will ensure that the funds are redirected to an organization meeting your charitable intent so that your generosity will continue to benefit the community in the way that you envisioned.

A field of interest fund allows you to make an impact in specific fields over time. You identify a specific or broad interest area (such as education, the arts, or animal welfare) and The Denver Foundation ensures effective grantmaking within that field as the needs change over time. This type of fund allows your grantmaking to evolve as the needs within the field do, and gives you peace of mind knowing that the Denver Foundation will be there to identify the best nonprofits in the issue area you have selected to ensure your legacy lives on.

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Donor-Advised Fund

Mary and George Sissel bring a combination of passion and discipline to everything they do. From professional experience, to volunteer commitments, to family life, they care deeply, give generously, and set a high standard of engagement. “We both grew up in families where philanthropy was an important part of life. It’s certainly rewarding now to see our children wanting to instill that same spirit in our grandchildren,” says Mary. The Sissels have a family donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation, and, by virtue of a planned bequest to that fund, they are members of the Foundation’s Community Legacy Society. “Our son and daughter are on the Fund’s Advisory Committee, and together we recommend grants to support organizations of mutual concern.” Their children will be able to carry on the legacy of philanthropy through their Fund thanks to thoughtful planning by Mary and George. The Denver Foundation is pleased to be able to provide a vehicle for “passing the philanthropic baton” from one generation to the next through multi-generational donor-advised funds.

Designated Fund

The vision of the Stiles African American Heritage Center is to provide a place where African American history is celebrated 365 days of the year. The woman behind the Heritage Center, Grace Stiles, is a visionary leader. In 2005, she made plans to ensure that after she’s gone, the Heritage Center will live on in the historic neighborhood of Five Points. “I wanted to see the Heritage Center continue to exist after my transition,” she says. “I felt if that is going to happen, it needed financial support.” Working with a financial advisor and The Denver Foundation, Stiles set up a charitable gift annuity that will go to the Grace Stiles Heritage Foundation Fund after her lifetime. The Fund will provide annual support in perpetuity to the Center she cares so deeply about. During her lifetime, Mrs. Stiles receives an annual stipend from the annuity, most of which is generated through investments. This partnership shows how planned giving can have many benefits, including the peace of mind one gains knowing one’s vision will endure.

Field of Interest Fund

Gwen Bowen, known as “Miss B,” was a dancer in her youth and went on to found her own dance studio near her home in Denver’s Washington Park neighborhood. For nearly five decades, Miss B taught young girls and boys to dance. As she neared the end of her life, she asked several of her dear friends to help her with the details as she used her estate to endow the Bowen Family Performing Arts Fund at The Denver Foundation. Each year, starting in 2013, grants go to help low-income children learn to dance, act, and sing, with all the creativity and zest for life that comes through these opportunities. Through her legacy, Miss B will continue to help young people experience the joy of performing for generations to come.

Named Endowed Fund

Irene Rothgerber was the daughter of Judge Ira Rothgerber. She was raised in Denver and attended East High School and Colorado College. She had many passions, namely animals, education, and children, and was very active in the Denver community. Before her death in 1984, Irene directed her estate to The Denver Foundation. Her generous bequest of $8 million established the Irene Rothgerber Fund and is invested with the Foundations other funds to grow over time. Twenty years later, the fund has awarded more than $20 million in grants and has a balance of over $28 million. Every year, grants are made in Irene’s name to numerous local nonprofits – furthering the causes she cared about the most and enriching our community at the same time.

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